WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for displaying connection information in a network topology
2   display, the method using a system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the
3   method comprising
4   obtaining connection information about a first node interconnected
5   with a second node;
6   displaying the first node on the display screen;
7   displaying the second node on the display screen;
8   if there is a single connection between the nodes then displaying a first
9   connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes;
10   if there are multiple connections between the nodes then displaying a
11 second connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and
12 second nodes; and
13   displaying a connector between the endpoint symbols.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first connection endpoint symbol
2   comprises line end segments, wherein a first line end segment is adjacent to the first node and
3   a second line end segment is adjacent to the second node.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the second endpoint symbol comprises
2   a graphical symbol to indicate the existence of multiple connections.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the second endpoint symbol includes a
2   two-pronged fork.

1   5.   The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second termination
2   symbols are the same.

1   6.   The method of claim 3, wherein the first and second termination
2   symbols are different.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the connection
2   endpoint symbols includes a numeric indication of the number of connections.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, the computer system further comprising a user
2   input device, the method further comprising

3   accepting a signal from the user input device to indicate that the user

4   has selected the second connection endpoint type displayed on the display screen; and

5   displaying an indication of the number of connections represented by

6   the selected second connection endpoint type.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the step of displaying an indication

2   includes a substep of

3   displaying a text description of the number of connections.

1   10.   The method of claim 8, wherein the text is displayed in a pop-up box.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include

2   redundant connections.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include

2   separate channels.

1   13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple connections include

2   discrete physical connections.

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1   14.   An apparatus for displaying connection information, the apparatus

2 comprising

3   a processor coupled to a display screen;

4   a data source coupled to the processor for providing connection

5 information about a first node interconnected with a second node;

6   one or more node display processes for displaying the first and second

7 nodes on the display screen;

8   one or more connection display processes for displaying a first

9 connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes

10 if there is a single connection between the nodes, and for displaying a second connection

11 endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both the first and second nodes if there are

12 more than one connections between the nodes.

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1   15.   A computer-readable medium including instructions for execution in a

2 system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the instructions comprising

3   obtaining connection information about a first node interconnected

4 with a second node;

5   displaying the first node on the display screen;

6   displaying the second node on the display screen;

7   if there is a single connection between the nodes then performing the

8 step of displaying a first connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to both

9 the first and second nodes;

10   if there are multiple connections between the nodes then performing

11 the step of displaying a second connection endpoint symbol on the display screen adjacent to

12 both the first and second nodes.

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1   16.   A method for displaying connection information in a network topology

2 display, the method using a system including a processor coupled to a display screen and user

3 input device, the method comprising the following steps performed by the processor

4   displaying a connection between first and second nodes on the display screen,

5 wherein the displayed connection corresponds to multiple connections between the nodes;

6   accepting signals from the user input device to indicate that the user has

7 selected the connection; and

8   in response to the step of accepting signals, performing the step of displaying

9 additional information about the connection on the display screen.

1   17.   The method of claim 15, wherein the step of displaying additional

2 information includes substep of

3   displaying a number indicating the number of connections between the

4 nodes.

1   18.   The method of claim 15, wherein the user input device is used to

2 control the position of a pointer displayed on the screen, wherein the step of accepting signals

3 includes the substep of

4   determining that the pointer has been moved near the connection.

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1   19.   A computer readable medium including instructions for execution in a

2   system including a processor coupled to a display screen, the instructions comprising

3   displaying a connection between first and second nodes on the display screen,

4   wherein the displayed connection corresponds to multiple connections between the nodes;

5   accepting signals from the user input device to indicate that the user has

6   selected the connection; and

7   in response to the step of accepting signals, performing the step of displaying

8   additional information about the connection on the display screen.